



1945 Photo

EMERSON BIGELOW

Emerson Bigelow, Specialist In Monetary Affairs for U.S.

FOIA b3b

Emerson Bigelow, 69, an expert on foreign exchange for the office of strategic services and a former financial consultant to the State Department, died of emphysema Tuesday at Washington Hospital Center.

Mr. Bigelow was in charge of financial reports for both the secret and non-secret operations of the Office of Strategic Services in World War II. His job was doubly difficult since normal exchange routes could not be used in financing secret projects. Yet the OSS had the reputation for neither having lost time nor caused a single

agent to be delayed because of a lack of money.

Mr. Bigelow also lectured in OSS schools on the handling of finances. He was associated with the Central Intelligence Agency until 1948 and then served as a consultant to the Office of the Secretary of Defense until he retired in 1958.

Mr. Bigelow was born in New York City in 1896. He graduated from Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn., and Yale in 1917. In World War I he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Quartermaster first class. He later worked in Buenos Aires for the First Bank of Boston and then went into

investment counseling in New York City.

In the 1930s, Mr. Bigelow served as chairman of the executive committee of the Foreign Exchange and Trade Institute, set up by international businessmen and bankers to study international monetary problems. He was technical adviser to the House Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures and a consultant for the Gold Reserve Act of 1934.

In the Roosevelt Administration, Mr. Bigelow was a consultant on world and domestic price levels to the Secretaries of Commerce, Agriculture and the Treasury. Throughout his years as a Government consultant he maintained his private investment consulting practice in New York.

He is survived by his wife, Marian, of 2500 Virginia ave. nw.; a son, John E. of Wellesley Hills, Mass.; a daughter, Mrs. Carl Morton of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; a sister, Mrs. Ward Melville of New York City, and three grandchildren.